Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented) An arithmetic performance attribution method for determining portfolio performance, relative to a benchmark, over multiple time periods t, where t varies from 1 to T, comprising the steps of:

(a) determining coefficients $c_1 = A$, and $c_2 = \left[\frac{R - \overline{R} - A\sum_{jt} a_{jt}}{\sum_{jt} a_{jt}^2} \right]$,

where A has any predetermined value, a_{jt} is a component of active return, the summation over index j is a summation over all components a_{jt} for period t, $R = [\prod_{t=1}^{T}(1+R_t)] - 1$, $\overline{R} = [\prod_{t=1}^{T}(1+\overline{R}_t)] - 1$, R_t is a portfolio return for period t, $\overline{R}_t$ is a benchmark return for period t, and the components a_{jt} for each period t satisfy $\sum_j a_{jt} = R_t - \overline{R}_t$; and

(b) determining the portfolio performance as $R - \overline{R} = \sum_{it} \lfloor c_1 a_{it} + c_2 a_{it}^2 \rfloor$, where the summation over index i is a summation over all the terms $(c_1 a_{it} + c_2\, a_{it}^{\,2})$ for period t.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein A is

$$A = \frac{1}{T}\left[\frac{(R - \overline{R})}{(1+R)^{1/T} - (1+\overline{R})^{1/T}} \right], \textit{ where } \quad R \neq \overline{R},$$

or for the special case $R = \overline{R}$:

$$A = (1+R)^{(T-1)/T}.$$

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein A = 1.

4. (previously presented) An arithmetic performance attribution method for determining portfolio performance, relative to a benchmark, over multiple time periods t, where t varies from 1 to T, comprising the steps of:

(a) determining a set of coefficients c_k, including a coefficient c_k for each positive integer k; and

(b) determining the portfolio performance as $R - \overline{R} = \sum_{it} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_k a_{it}^k$, where a_{it} is a component of active return for period t, the summation over index i is a summation over all components a_{it} for period t, $R = [\prod_{t=1}^{T} (1 + R_t)] - 1$, $\overline{R} = [\prod_{t=1}^{T} (1 + \overline{R}_t)] - 1$, R_t is a portfolio return for period t, $\overline{R}_t$ is a benchmark return for period t, and the components a_{it} for each period t satisfy $\sum_i a_{it} = R_t - \overline{R}_t$, where the summation over index i is a summation over all components a_{it} for said each period t.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein A is

$$A = \frac{1}{T}\left[\frac{(R - \overline{R})}{(1 + R)^{1/T} - (1 + \overline{R})^{1/T}}\right], \text{ where } R \neq \overline{R},$$

or for the special case $R = \overline{R}$:

$$A = (1 + R)^{(T-1)/T}.$$

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein $c_k = 0$ for each integer k greater than two, $c_1 = A$, $c_2 = \left[\frac{R - \overline{R} - A\sum_{jt} a_{jt}}{\sum_{jt} a_{jt}^2}\right]$, A has any predetermined value, the summation over index j is a summation over all components a_{jt} for period t, $R = [\prod_{t=1}^{T} (1 + R_t)] - 1$, $\overline{R} = [\prod_{t=1}^{T} (1 + \overline{R}_t)] - 1$, R_t is a portfolio return for period t, $\overline{R}_t$ is a benchmark return for period t, and the components a_{jt} for each period t satisfy $\sum_j a_{jt} = R_t - \overline{R}_t$.

7-14. (canceled)